Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 OMB-01 /056 W

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R 041940Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5296 INFO AMEMBASSY NASSAU CNO JCS

CONFIDENTIAL BRIDGETOWN 1227

E.O. 11652: GDS

CINCLANT

TAGS: MARR, BB

SUBJ: BARBADOS NAVFAC NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 112585

1. WHILE WHAT FOLLOWS IS SPECULATION, I FEEL REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT THE LEGAL QUESTIONS REFERRED TO BY FOREIGN MINISTER FORDE ARISE FROM GOB'S CONTENTION THAT US OWES BARBADOS "COMPENSATION" FOR PAST USE OF "INFRASTRUCTURE" WHICH IS GENERALLY IDENTIFIED AS AIRPORT, ROADS, PORTS, ETC. HE IS AWARE OF OUR VIEW THAT AS REGARDS ROADS THE AGREEMENT CLEARLY PERTAINS ONLY TO ROADS WITHIN THE PERIMETER OF THE NAVAL FACILITY. THIS INTERPRETATION APPARENTLY HAD NEVER OCCURRED TO HIM. THERE ARE ALSO SOME UNCERTAINTIES OVER THE CHARGES FOR USE OF THE AIRPORT WHICH GOB WANTS TO PRESS. THE MINISTER ALSO OCCASIONALLY REFERS TO PAST PROMISES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE THE U.S. ALLEGEDLY MADE. AT THIS JUNCTURE THESE ASPECTS APPEAR TO BE THE MAJOR POINTS AT ISSUE.

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2. ONCE GOB HAS ITS INTERNAL DUCKS IN A ROW, I EXPECT THEY WILL BE READY TO REINITIATE NEGOTIATIONS. ONCE AGAIN THEY WILL START WITH A HIGH BID. ORTIZ

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Message Attributes

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